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WILSON IS READY WITH U. S. ANSWER TO KAISER'S NOTE

President and Secretary Discuss Serious Developments Arising from German Submarine Warfare.

LANSING IS SILENT AS TO BERNSTORFF

Announcement of Final Step to Be Made After Official Statement — Ultimatum May Be Sent at Once.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1. — A flat statement that all ships within the German barred zone, neutrals included, will be sunk is contained in the German official memoranda handed to the State Department last night. This was revealed this evening when the text was made public. Submarines will be used. While previous rumors said neutral ships entered the zone only on their own peril, this evening's memoranda is the first statement that all ships entering will be sunk.

By United Press

LONDON, Feb. 1.—Germany's new submarine campaign of ruthlessly attacking any and all merchant vessels without warning is under way. The Dutch steamer Epsilon, 3,211 tons, was the first victim to be sunk in the new war zone today. Three British fishing smacks also were among the first vessels known to have been sunk pursuant to the new German order.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—President Wilson is almost ready to announce this Government's answer to Germany's warning of future unrestricted naval warfare. Acting upon instructions from Wilson, Secretary Lansing has prepared a communication the nature of which is being kept secret. Withholding an expected announcement of this Government's contentions in the crisis, Lansing late this afternoon refused to comment in any way on the situation or on the reported communication he had prepared.

At 3:55 this afternoon, Lansing said to newspaper men, "I have nothing to say to you, nor will I answer any questions bearing on the present situation." If the State Department intends to hand Ambassador von Bernstorff a passport it has not yet done so. This was officially learned late this afternoon. It was announced at the State Department that "we have not communicated with the German Ambassador since he delivered the note yesterday."

At the same time, the State Department issued its order it refused passports to travelers planning to sail to European ports. This action by the State Department served to increase the tension surrounding the development today.

It was pointed out that the refusal to issue passports might mean either that this Government was planning to take drastic action and foresaw an inevitable break in relations between the United States and Germany or that Wilson has determined to modify his former stand, preventing any American traveler on the high seas and thus maintaining this country's neutral status.

While no hint is available from any source, as to the President's decision in the case, the gravity of Lansing's expression this afternoon indicated plainly that a most serious situation has developed. The announcement of the new passport appears imminent. It was with a rather weary gesture, after leaving the White House, that Lansing threw down on the front seat of his carriage the little black portfolio which, during the last two and a half years has carried between the State Department and the White House, all of the communications and memoranda bearing on the many crises this country has gone through with Germany.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The United States Government has planned, if it has not already taken, the first preliminary step in connection with Germany's withdrawing all restrictions pertaining to submarine warfare.

Secretary Lansing and the Pres-

dent, it was learned today, had a long conference last night in which the serious developments between this Government and Germany were freely discussed.

The port of New York, it was learned this afternoon, was closed by orders from Washington, and on orders from the same place this afternoon the orders of the collector of the port were withdrawn.

Otherwise absolute secrecy surrounds all Government actions here. No official would discuss in any way the steps this Government is taking before a definite statement is issued by President Wilson.

Secretary Lansing this afternoon took to the White House what is understood to be an ultimatum to the Kaiser. He declined to discuss the situation in any way before he had talked to the President. He even refused to state whether there would be any announcement from the Government today.

Lansing denied himself all interviews or conferences with foreign diplomats, including Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, and definitely canceled all conferences with newspaper representatives at 11 o'clock.

Officials today admitted they had seen the possibility of Germany's action for some time. It was believed they had some knowledge of Germany's intention to "cut loose" if peace moves failed. The Allied forces are claimed to have known it for three months and that they have been making preparations accordingly.

A special message was sent by the President yesterday to Colonel E. M. House, who hastened here secretly during the night. It was expected the lid would be kept on all congressional discussion for the moment and that as promptly as he could, the President would consult Senator Stone, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and others high in his council.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The State Department this afternoon suspended issuance of American passports to travelers abroad, but no explanation was given and the length of the suspension was not announced.

By United Press

LANSING DECLINES TO TALK. WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—After conferring with President Wilson for some time this morning, Lansing this afternoon positively declined to make any statement concerning the German-American situation.

By United Press

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 1.—"I cannot say a thing just now on the present situation with Germany." That was United States Senator Stone's only comment as he departed for Washington at noon today. The Missouri senator refused absolutely to make any statements either on the position of the United States or as to the seriousness of the situation. He said he would confer with President Wilson immediately upon his arrival in Washington.

By United Press

CONCORD, N. H., Feb. 1.—Former President Taft, speaking before the legislature here today, denounced Germany's new submarine policy, branding it a return to barbarous warfare and calling it an unwarranted expansion of the rights of the blockade.

By United Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Feb. 1.—An especially summoned Cabinet meeting to discuss the German note to America was announced here today. It is understood that Parliament has also been instructed to assemble for a special session.

By United Press

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 1.—The German raider, Liebenfels, lying in the harbor here since the war started mysteriously sank at her anchorage today in forty to fifty feet of water. Tugs standing by offered assistance, but it was refused by her captains said. In shipping circles it was generally believed that the Liebenfels must have been deliberately scuttled.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 1. — In a mad rush to unload, started by the German submarine declaration, traders on the Stock Exchange dumped more than hundreds of thousands of shares.

(Continued on Page Four).

ZERO WEATHER TAKES CITY'S COAL SUPPLY

Three of Five Leading Dealers Report Practically No Fuel in Store.

By United Press

Cold Wave Makes Relief Necessary to Families on Poverty Line.

In the grip of the cold spell that promises to take the mercury to 15 degrees below zero tonight and keep it below zero until Sunday, Columbia faces the possibility of a crisis in her coal supply. Most of the dealers have a supply on hand now, but this supply is small and shipments are uncertain.

Three of five of the leading coal dealers of the city had less than a car in store this morning, and two of these reported practically no supply. The other two firms said they were filling all orders. One of these two dealers thought he would have enough to last this week without any new shipments and the other had one car on hand. For the nine dealers there are two cars at the Wabash tracks, both nearly unloaded, and four at the M. K. & T.

Those companies which get coal from the local mines are handicapped by a lack of labor and by the cold wave itself. The local mines, however, are not well enough developed to make much of a difference in Columbia's fuel supply.

All of the dealers have coal ordered, but, as has been the case all winter, shipments are uncertain. Contractors who sell to Columbia dealers are slow to ship because of the increased price, and the railroads have other uses for their cars. One local dealer said the trouble was in the terminals at St. Louis.

By United Press

The University is better supplied with coal than it has been this year. The cold weather has caused more calls than usual to be made upon the Charity Organization Society. Coal and groceries are wanted. According to D. E. Major, the families who live barely above the poverty line can get along by picking up sticks and blocks as long as the weather remains moderate, but when such weather as this comes they need immediate aid.

Who is responsible for the cold weather anyway? It seems that George Reeder, in charge of the local weather bureau, is being considered the cause. Inquiries were coming in to his office in Switzer Hall this morning at a rate of about one a minute. "What is the temperature. How low will it go and how long will the cold weather last," were the three questions asked. "Some inquiries are from farmers; some are from Columbians and some from persons far away," Mr. Reeder said. "We give them the information they want without trying to find out who they are or where they live."

By United Press

COLD SPELL COSTLY TO CADETS. Zero Weather to Mean Extra \$250 for Taxicabs to Bail.

The sudden cold spell that arrived in Columbia yesterday will cost the members of the University cadet corps \$250 tonight. This amount will be necessary to pay for taxicab service for the 250 couples that will attend the annual military ball at Rothwell Gymnasium. It had been generally agreed upon that taxicabs should not be used, as a means of cutting down the expense of the ball. The drop in temperature will make it impossible for the cadets to live up to the agreement.

The ball will include a nineteen-dance program with dinner dances. Forty couples will be served during each two dances, beginning with the fifth and sixth dances. The regular program will be preceded by a grand march, with the officers and non-commissioned officers wearing their swords.

By United Press

Eighth Call Late This Afternoon. The eighth call for the fire department during the last two days came from the residence of S. K. Duncan, 1402 Bass avenue, at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Burning soot from an overheated flue caused the alarm. It was not necessary to use any water.

FIREMEN ARE CALLED 7 TIMES IN 24 HOURS

Sudden Fall in Temperature Thought Responsible for the Summons.

By United Press

Chief Earl N. Kurtz Pleads for Fireproof Roofs for Prevention.

Seven calls in twenty-four hours is the new record for the Columbia fire department as a result of the cold wave that reached this city yesterday morning. The calls, coming between 12:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon and 12 o'clock today, were due to burning soot, a bursting water pipe and the escape of steam from an overheated basement—all resulting from the sudden drop in temperature.

The total loss will not exceed \$50, according to Fire Chief Earl N. Kurtz. Five of the blazes were caused by wood shingle roofs catching fire from burning soot. Each of these would have developed into a serious blaze had it not been for the quick work of the fire department. The strong wind and clear air favored the rapid spread of the fire.

By United Press

Two Alarms Yesterday. The first call came from the home of Mrs. Allie Luckie, 508 South Ninth street, at 12:45 yesterday afternoon. Burning soot from an overheated flue started a roof blaze. Quick use of the chemical tanks extinguished the blaze with little damage.

The second alarm called the fire department to the home of Mrs. Nannie Murphy, 7 North Garth avenue, at 7:30 o'clock last night, to another roof blaze resulting from burning soot. The chemical tanks were again used to good effect. The damage was slight.

The third alarm at 3 o'clock this morning called the firemen to the Annex Billiard Parlor, 7-9 North Ninth street. Steam escaping from the basement through the grating in front of the building caused a passerby to sound an alarm.

The third roof blaze occurred at 6:20 o'clock this morning at the home of Alexander Bradford, Jr., 1111 East Broadway. The blaze was quickly extinguished with the chemicals.

Burning shingles were the cause of the fifth alarm, calling the firemen to the home of J. D. Tucker, 300 South Ninth street, at 8:20 o'clock this morning. The chemicals were again used effectively.

By United Press

Firemen Fight Water. A bursting water pipe in the home of W. V. Whitesides, 714 Wilkes boulevard, was deemed sufficient cause for summoning the firemen. The men proved their ability to fight water also by stopping the flow before much damage was done.

The last of the seven alarms called the firemen to the home of W. E. Bradford, 1016 East Walnut street, at noon today. The roof blaze in this case had secured a good start, as a result of the strong wind. The damage is estimated at between \$25 and \$35.

"These blazes emphasize the thing I have been preaching for sometime," said Chief Kurtz today after the last of the series of alarms. "A wood shingle roof is the best guarantee of a fire that can be found. All that is necessary is for some sparks of burning soot to fall on the roof when a good wind is blowing. When shingles start burning, it does not take very long for a good wind to have the whole roof ablaze. I would advise every person building a new house to use fireproof shingles no matter what material they are made of."

By United Press

Delta Gamma Quarantine Lifted. The quarantine was lifted today from the Delta Gamma house, which was quarantined for scarlet fever, January 25. Miss Marian Warner, who is still at the Parker Memorial Hospital, was the only one who was ill. The other young women were quarantined, Dr. Guy L. Noyes said, until all danger of contagion was past.

By United Press

J. B. Stewart Wins Land Suit. A suit against J. B. Stewart by Frank Quisenberry over the right of way of 20 feet of land between farms owned by them near Midway was settled in Judge Bicknell's court yesterday. Mr. Stewart was awarded the land and \$10 damages. The suit was appealed by Mr. Quisenberry to the circuit court.

THE WEATHER

For Columbia and Vicinity: Fair with severe cold tonight and Friday, probably 15 degrees or more below zero.

For Missouri: Fair tonight, colder east and south portions. Friday fair with severe cold.

Shippers' Forecast: Prepare shipments within a radius of 200 miles of Columbia to withstand temperatures as follows: 30 degrees below zero North and West and 5 degrees below zero East and South.

Weather Conditions. The cold wave has overspread all of the country from Canada to the Rio Grande River, and eastward to the Appalachian Mountains, the weather still is balmy along the immediate Atlantic Coast but a marked fall in temperature will occur there within the next twenty-four hours.

The freezing line of 32 degrees extends almost to the lower Rio Grande Valley; zero skirts northern Texas, while in the upper valleys it is 30 degrees or more below zero. Severe cold continues in the northern border states, but temperatures there have risen slightly, as a result of dynamic warming, the atmospheric pressure being represented by 31 inches on the barometer.

In Columbia severe cold will continue during the next thirty-six hours, but probably beginning to slowly moderate Saturday and Sunday.

Local Data. The highest temperature in Columbia yesterday was 41, and the lowest last night was 2 degrees below zero; precipitation, 0.00; relative humidity 2 p. m. yesterday, 93 per cent. A year ago yesterday the highest temperature was 27, and the lowest 12; precipitation, 0.00.

The Almanac. Sun rose today, 7:16 a. m. Sun sets, 5:29 p. m. Moon sets 3:20 a. m.

The Temperatures Today. 7 a. m. ---2 11 a. m. ---2 8 a. m. ---5 12 m. ---1 9 a. m. ---5 1 p. m. ---0.1 10 a. m. ---4 2 p. m. ---0.8

HOGS AT \$12.25 SET A RECORD

East St. Louis Stockyards Have Quotations at Highest Price Ever. Twelve dollars and twenty-five cents a hundred pounds for hogs! That is the price paid in the East St. Louis stockyards today. According to the United States representative who sends out the official quotations to the Daily Missourian each day, this is the highest price paid for pork in the Central West, including Chicago, "since the time of Adam."

By United Press

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 1.—Germany's submarine decision hit the local live stock market this afternoon and sent prices tumbling after opening from twenty-five to thirty-five cents higher than yesterday's best average. The hog market dropped fifteen cents lower than the best sale on Wednesday's close. The close this afternoon was \$11.85 for best.

POWELL LEAVES FOR SHANGHAI

Former M. U. Advertising Instructor Will See Missourians In Japan.

J. B. Powell, until recently instructor in advertising in the School of Journalism, left at 10:50 o'clock this morning for San Francisco from where he will go to Shanghai, China, to be business manager of a financial journal published by Thomas F. Millard, owner of the China Press at Shanghai. In San Francisco Mr. Powell will interview bankers and members of importing and exporting



J. B. Powell

companies that trade in the Orient. He will leave there February 9 and stay in Honolulu a night before going on to Yokohama. At Yokohama he will visit Ralph H. Turner, Glenn G. Babb and Oscar Riley, all graduates of the School of Journalism, who are working on the Japan Advertiser in Tokyo, which is about forty miles inland from Yokohama, the sea port. The trip from San Francisco to Shanghai takes twenty-four days.

Mrs. Powell accompanied Mr. Powell as far as Kansas City. She will return tomorrow and go to Hannibal with her daughter to stay with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hinton, until next summer when she will join her husband in Shanghai. Her father will accompany her.

To Teach Cutting and Curing of Meats

A course in the Cutting and Curing of Meats, Agricultural Chemistry 103b, which is not listed in the catalog, will be offered on Saturday morning from 8-10 for one hour credit. This will be open to women students who are specializing in Home Economics.

1917 TAX VALUATION SHOWS BIG INCREASE

County Assessor's Figures on Real and Personal Property Total \$11,903,070.88.

By United Press

ABSTRACT IS FILED. Records Show Gain of \$303,733 Over 1916—Total Is Over \$13,000,000.

The assessed value of Boone County real estate and personal property for 1916 is \$11,903,070.88. These are the figures obtained by County Assessor P. H. Sapp in preparing the aggregate abstract from which the 1917 taxes on this property will be levied. The abstract was filed in the office of County Clerk Charles W. Davis this morning.

This sum does not include the valuation of railroad property and mercantile and corporation holdings. The assessed value of railroad property in Boone County last year was \$1,536,854.30. The valuation of mercantile and corporation property last year was \$440,190. It is estimated by County Clerk Davis that the total assessed valuation for this year will exceed \$13,000,000.

Largest Increase for One Year.

The increase in the assessed valuation of real and personal property this year over the figures for last year is \$303,733. This is the largest increase on record for any single year, according to Mr. Davis. The increase in valuation in 1915-16 was \$246,489 and the increase in 1914-15 was \$248,768. "This unusual increase for 1917 can be largely attributed to the prevailing high prices resulting from the war," said Mr. Davis. "The valuation of horses and mules has been greatly increased by the large demand for these animals in the warring countries. The value of other kinds of real and personal property has also advanced considerably."

Eight Millions in Real Estate.

The total valuation of real estate for this year is \$8,352,585. A total of 423,199 acres of farm land is given an assessed valuation of \$4,450,850, which makes the average valuation per acre \$10.51. A total of 9,299 towns lots are assessed at \$3,901,735. This makes the average assessed value of a town lot \$419.58.

Personal property is given a total assessed valuation of \$3,550,485.88. The separate items under personal property are: 8,921 horses valued at \$371,045; 6,330 mules valued at \$298,725; 221 asses and jennets valued at \$10,265; 21,710 neat cattle valued at \$389,530; 6,961 sheep valued at \$18,320; 18,157 hogs valued at \$74,475; moneys, notes, mortgages and other evidences of debt valued at \$1,029,210; corporate companies, bank stock valued at \$622,095.88; corporation companies other than banks, including local insurance companies valued at \$39,100; all other personal property included in classes 3, 4 and 10 of the assessment list valued at \$697,720.

NEPOTISM BILL PASSES HOUSE

Measure Regulates Municipal and Township Offices.

By United Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Feb. 1.—The House this afternoon cast an overwhelming vote for the bill prohibiting nepotism in every department and institution of state municipalities or township offices and sent the measure out for engrossment, which virtually assures its passage.

In asking for the passage of the bill, Representative Lee said the members of the House need not worry about their relatives because the measure did not become effective until after adjournment.

STUDENT FAINTS WHILE DANCING

Miss Hazel George Collapsed During the Post-Exam Jubilee.

Miss Hazel George, a University student, while entertaining the post-exam jubilee audience at Y. M. C. A. Building last night with Miss Pearl Ragsdale in a series of esthetic dances, fell fainting to the floor a few minutes after their number began. She did not revive for several minutes. It was thought that Miss George became overheated for the room was very warm with the 450 people in attendance crowded into the lobby and she also wore a heavy sweater.

Acquitted of Double Murder Charge.

By United Press

SAN ANGELO, Tex., Feb. 1.—Harry J. Spannall was acquitted late today of the murder of Major M. C. Butler, U. S. A., and Mrs. Spannall last July.